

Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

HEW-08 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /121 W
----- 098451

P R 180850 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7876

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3171

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, KN, KS

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN ADMISSION TO WHO

REF: TOKYO 6170

SUMMARY: PRESS HAS REPORTED WHO VOTE BRIEFLY AND FACTUALLY
BUT NO OFFICIAL OR EDITORIAL REACTION HAS APPEARED IN
THE MEDIA. ROKG AND PRESS ARE OFFERING NO IMMEDIATE
REACTION TO NORTH KOREAN ENTRY TO WHO. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA INFORMS US THAT IT HAS MULLED POSSIBILITY OF
STATEMENT BUT THUS FAR HAS REACHED NO DECISION AND MAY
POSTPONE SAYING ANYTHING UNTIL MAY 19 WHEN FONMIN IS
NOW DUE, TRAVELLING DIRECT FROM CANBERRA TO SEOUL. ANY
STATEMENT MADE WILL IN ANY EVENT BE VERY SHORT ACCORDING TO MOFA.
ACTING FONMIN YUN MADE SITUATION
REPORT TO PRESIDENT PARK ON MORNING OF MAY 18. MEANWHILE,
ROK HEALTH MINISTRY DELEGATION WILL REMAIN IN GENEVA
AND PARTICIPATE IN WHA.

2. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION CHIEF JONG
HAE HONG TOLD EMBOFF MAY 18 THAT DEFEAT OF ROKG STRATEGY
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WAS BEING TAKEN HARD IN MOFA. CONFIDENCE IN A ROK VICTORY WHICH HAD PERVADED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM GENEVA ON EVE OF VOTING HAD EXTENDED TO MOFA AND THE DEFEAT WAS A COMPLETE SURPRISE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, PRIMIN' S SECRETARY ALSO CONFIDED THAT LOSS AT WHA HAD COME AS SHOCK TO PRIMIN AND OTHER HIGH LEVELS OF ROKG. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS BUT COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT ROKG REACTION WOULD BE.

4. ROK PRESS, WHICH ON MAY 17 WAS STILL QUOTING WIRE SERVICE STORIES FROM GENEVA WITH PREDICTION OF CITORY, ON MAY 18 REPORTED THE VARIOUS VOTES ON THE KOREAN QUESTION IN BRIEF FACTUAL FRONT- PAGE STORIES. AFTERNOON PAPERS CARRIED OHIRA COMMENTS REPORTED REFTEL. ONLY ATTEMPT TO BROADEN STORY WAS MADE BY TONGA ILBO, WHICH CARRIED ITS CORRESPONDENTS' REPORTS FROM GENEVA, TOKYO AND WASHINGTON. GENEVA CORRESPONDENT QUOTED ROK AMBASSADOR PARK TONG JIN' S REMARK IN WHA DEBATE THAT ROK DOES NOT OPPOSE ADMISSION OF NORTH KOREA BUT THAT ADMISSION SHOULD BE DELAYED FOR A YEAR SO AS NOT TO DISTURB THE SOUTH- NORTH DIALOGUE. WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT QUOTED USUN MAY 17 STATEMENT (WIRELESS FILE).
HABIB

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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